

## PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN

### FUNCTION OF THE JOB

Under supervision to assist in-patient psychiatric patients by providing basic care services; and to perform other duties as required.

### CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Records observations regarding the patients' behavior, mental status, and care; reports observations to the charge nurse; provides input for nursing care plans; and implements portions of the nursing care plan according to level of expertise.
2. Attends staffings and provides input for comprehensive treatment plans for patients.
3. Under the guidance of licensed staff, assists in restraining physically aggressive patients to protect them from harming themselves, other patients or staff.
4. Assists nursing staff with new admissions by taking vital signs, orienting patient to the unit, and checking patient belongings for contraband items.
5. Prepares patients for meals, picks up and portions meals, checks meals for correctness, records intake and output when ordered, assists with feeding as necessary, and cleans up following meals.
6. Directs or assists patients with personal hygiene care, including such things as bathing, shaving, and hair care.
7. Provides clean linen for bed changes and assists patient in keeping room clean.
8. Assists patients in using the washer and dryer for laundering personal clothing.
9. Transports patients in appointments such as dentist, physician, shopping or recreational activities.
10. Assists in planning and implementing group activities as assigned by charge nurse.
11. Plans and implements recreational activities on the weekends and during evening hours.
12. Responsible for keeping work area clean and in order by keeping floors dry, storerooms tidy, corridors clear, disposing of waste properly, and washing equipment regularly.
13. Participates in in-service training programs to remain current in the mental health field.
14. Transports and directs patients and visitors to safety in emergencies such as fire or severe weather conditions.
15. Performs other duties as required.

### QUALIFICATIONS

#### Essential Knowledge and Abilities

1. Working knowledge of the diversified physical and psychological needs of patients in an in-patient mental health facility.
2. Working knowledge of safe work practices and procedures in an in-patient mental health facility.
3. Ability to assess and respond by administering the appropriate care in response to the patient's physical and emotional needs in varied settings and situations.
4. Ability to communicate with patients' families and staff and develop an understanding of patient problems and needs.
5. Ability to assume and carry out considerable responsibility within established guidelines and with limited supervision.
6. Ability to maintain accurate records of patient observations, interactions, and care administered.
7. Ability to restrain physically aggressive patients.
8. Ability to maintain self control and respond appropriately in a crisis situation.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Essential Knowledge and Abilities (continued)

9. Ability to act as a co-leader in planning, organizing, and implementing structured group activities and recreational activities.
10. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.

### Training and Experience

1. High school graduation or GED equivalent
2. Two years of accredited post high school education with at least two courses in psychology, sociology, or social work.

OR

Six months of patient care experience in a mental health setting or a residential treatment center for mentally ill or developmentally disabled or related area.

OR

Completion of two semesters of clinical education as a nursing student in an accredited nursing education program.